GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3502
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2015
Child Labour in Brick Kilns
Yellaiah Shri Nandi

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the total number of children engaged as child labour in various brick kilns in the country, State/UT-wise including Telangana and Andhra Pradesh;
(b)whether the Government is aware of violation of child labour laws in such brick kilns and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c)the details of action taken against the offenders along with the current status of rehabilitation processes to relieve the child labour force from various such factories including brick kilns in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh; and
(d)the measures taken by the Government to completely eradicate child labour in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) & (b): Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in certain occupations and processes and regulates the working condition of children in employment where they are not prohibited. As per 2001 Census, 84,972 children were found employed in the Brick-Klins, tiles. The number of main workers in the age group of 5 to 14 years as per 2011 Census, State-wise is given at Annexure. The occupation wise data is not available from Census 2011.
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(c) & (d): As per the information received from the States, the total number of Prosecutions under Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 during the last three years i.e. 2012, 2013 and 2014 are 4,731, 4,899 and 3,340 respectively. Considering the nature of the problem of child labour, Government is following a multi-pronged strategy. It comprises of statutory and legislative measures, rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through specific scheme and universal elementary education along with convergence with other schemes for socio-economic development.
A Bill to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha in 2012. The Government has decided to move Official Amendments to the Amendment Bill. The Official Amendments along with the Amendment Bill, inter-alia, covers complete prohibition on employment of children below 14 years and linking the age of prohibition with the age under Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.
Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme under which children rescued/ withdrawn from work in the age group of 9-14 years are enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health care etc. before mainstreaming into formal education system. Children in the age group of 5-8 years are directly linked to the formal education system through a close coordination with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA). As per the information received from NCLP District Project Societies, the number of child labourers rescued/withdrawn from work, rehabilitated and mainstreamed under National Child Labour Project Scheme during the year 2013-14, 2014-15 and the 2015-16 (as on 30.9.2015) are 64,050, 1,16,957 and 35,148 respectively.
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